

COMMONLY USED TERMS (Gathered from a variety of sources)

Achievement Test: A test that measures a student's level of development in academic areas such as math, reading, and writing.

Accommodations: Techniques and materials that do not change the basic curriculum, but do make learning a little easier or help students communicate what they know.

Advocacy: Recognizing and communicating needs, rights, and interests on behalf of a child; making informed choices.

Alternate Assessment: An assessment for children with disabilities who cannot participate in the state or local testing programs even with appropriate accommodations and modifications.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): A law giving individuals with disabilities civil rights protection.

Annual Goal: Statement describing the anticipated growth of a student's skill and knowledge written into a student's yearly IEP.

Annual Review: A meeting held at least once a year to look at, talk about, and study a student's IEP. The purpose of the review is to make decisions about changes in the IEP, review the placement, and develop a new IEP for the year ahead.

Assistive Technology: Any item, piece of equipment, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of children with disabilities.

At Risk: Term used to describe children who are considered likely to have difficulties because of home life circumstances, medical difficulties, or other factors, and who may need early intervention services to prevent future difficulties.

Auditory Discrimination: Ability to identify differences between words and sounds that are similar

Auditory Processing: Among students with normal hearing, the ability to understand spoken language.

Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP): A plan that utilizes positive behavioral interventions and supports to address behaviors that interfere with the learning of students with disabilities or with the learning of others or behaviors that require disciplinary action.

Child Find: A state and local program mandated by IDEA to identify individuals with disabilities between the ages of birth and 21, and to direct them to appropriate early intervention or educational programs.

Consent: Parental permission, usually given by signing a letter or form agreeing to let the schools take an action which affects a child's education. Consent is required before a child can be evaluated or receive special education services under IDEA.

Disability: A problem or condition which makes it hard for a student to learn or do things in the same way as most other students. A disability may be short term or permanent.

Due Process: Procedural safeguards to protect the rights of the parent and child under federal and state laws and regulations for special education.

Eligibility: The determination of whether or not a child qualifies to receive special education services based on meeting established criteria.

Evaluation: The process of collecting information about a student's learning needs through a series of individual tests, observation, and talks with the student, the family, and teachers. Also, the process of obtaining detailed information about an infant or toddler's developmental levels and needs for services. (May also be called Assessment.)

Extended School Year (ESY): Educational services provided beyond the normal school year in accordance with the child's IEP, at no cost to the parents, to help decrease regression of learning for the next school year.

Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE): Entitles a public school child with a disability to an educational program and related services to meet unique educational needs at no cost to the parents, based on the IEP, under public supervision, and meet state standards.

Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA): The process to determine the underlying cause or functions of a child's behavior that impede the learning of the child with a disability or the learning of the child's peers.

Independent Living Skills: Basic skills needed by people with disabilities to function on their own with as little help as possible. Skills include self-help (e.g. bathing, dressing, hygiene), housekeeping, community living (e.g. using public transportation, shopping).

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): Federal law that provides for special education and related services to eligible children with disabilities.

Individualized Education Program (IEP): Written plan to meet the unique educational needs of a child with a disability who requires special education services to benefit from the general education program.